

**REMARKS**

The Official Action dated October 14, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In view thereof, claim 34 has been canceled in its entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Accordingly, claims 23-27, 29, 32 and 35-40 are presently pending in the instant application.

Referring now to the Official Action and particularly page 3 thereof, Applicant wishes to acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 23-27, 29, 32 and 35-40 are allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these claims again be indicated as being allowable over the prior art of record and with the cancellation of claim 34 that the application be passed to issue.

With reference now to page 2 of the Office Action, claim 34 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,046,503 issued to Weigand et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed in that claim 34 has been canceled in its entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Accordingly, with the cancellation of claim 34, further discussion with respect to the rejection thereof is no longer believed to be warranted.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing it is respectfully requested that the rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 23-27, 29, 32 and 35-40 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

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Should the Examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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